



Reading Toolkit: Grade 7 Objective 2.A.6.a

Student Handout: Reading: Grade 7 Objective 2.A.6.a

Standard 2.0 Comprehension of Informational Text

Topic A. Comprehension of Informational Text

Indicator 6. Read critically to evaluate informational text

Objective a. Analyze the extent to which the text fulfills the reading purpose

Assessment Limits:

Connections between the content of the text and the purpose for reading

Selected Response (SR) Item

Question

Read the passage "[Bard of Avon](#)."

Which sentence would *best* provide additional information to paragraph 2 and connect to paragraph 3?

- A. But the Theatre was still the favorite.
- B. It was easy to get into a playhouse for a performance.
- C. It was difficult to get workers to construct the playhouses.
- D. The playhouses were constructed of the same materials and with the same plan.

Correct Answer

- D. The playhouses were constructed of the same materials and with the same plan.

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Handouts

From Bard of Avon

By Diane Stanley and Peter Vennema

William Shakespeare went to London just at the time when modern theater was taking shape. In 1576, when Shakespeare was still a schoolboy, an actor named James Burbage put up a building near London designed solely for the performance of plays. It was the first such building since the days of ancient Greece and Rome. He called it the Theatre, a name now used for all playhouses.

The people of London loved to see plays, and James Burbage's Theatre was a smash success. Soon other playhouses were built, first the Curtain, then the Rose and the Swan.

These new theaters were circular wooden buildings with an open courtyard in the middle, much like the inn yards in which plays were often performed. People could stand in the courtyard for a penny. They were called groundlings, and they were known to drink too much beer and be quite noisy and rude if they didn't like the play. A wise playwright would throw in a joke every now and then to keep the groundlings happy.

Anyone willing to pay a bit more could sit in one of the three galleries, where they had a roof to protect them from the sun or a sudden shower.

Plays were only done in daylight and in nice weather, as there were no lights or heat. On the days when a play would be presented, a flag was flown from the tower of the theater, where people in the city could see it.

There was no curtain across the stage and not much scenery. A table and chairs would show that it was a banquet room; a potted bush would represent the countryside. Sometimes a sign was carried onstage telling the location, such as A Wood Near Athens. Or an actor would walk onstage and say something such as, "Well, this is the Forest of Arden!"

The costumes were often elegant. In those days, it was customary for a gentleman to leave his clothes to his faithful servants when he died. But servants didn't wear that sort of clothing, so they sold it to the actors to wear as costumes.

The theaters also had special effects. The roof of the stage, painted with stars and called the heavens, had a trapdoor in it. If the play called for a god to descend from the sky, a throne could be lowered through the trapdoor by ropes. The sound of thunder was made by rolling a cannonball around on the floor of the hut above the stage. There was also a cannon up there that fired blanks for the battle scenes.